In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated below:

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

a client, implemented by a computer on a network, ~~reading an~~ obtaining a service advertisement from a space, where the service advertisement is expressed in a markup language, wherein the space comprises ~~a network-addressable storage location~~ a network-accessible repository which stores a plurality of service advertisements expressed in the markup language, wherein ~~the advertisement~~ each of the plurality of service advertisements comprises a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a markup language schema for a respective service, wherein the URI specifies a network address at which [[a]] the respective service may be accessed, and wherein the markup language schema ~~specifies one or more messages usable to invoke one or more functions of the service~~ defines a message interface for accessing the respective service; and

the client accessing the service according to the service advertisement, wherein said accessing the service comprises the client sending a first markup language message to the service at the URI specified in the service advertisement, wherein the first message is specified in the markup language schema.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: the service sending a second markup language message to the client in response to the ~~client sending~~ service receiving the first markup language message ~~to the service~~, wherein the second markup language message is specified in the markup language schema.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: invoking one

or more functions of the service in response to the ~~client sending~~ the first <u>markup</u> <u>language</u> message ~~to the service~~.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original)   The method of claim 5, wherein the ~~data representation~~ <u>markup</u> language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

7. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the URI comprises an Internet address.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: the service publishing the <u>service</u> advertisement in the space.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: the client ~~using~~ <u>accessing</u> a lookup service to find the <u>service</u> advertisement in the space.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising: the client ~~using the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct~~ <u>generating</u> a <u>message</u> gate for ~~access to~~ <u>accessing</u> the service<u>, wherein the message gate is generated according</u> <u>to the URI and the markup language schema in the service advertisement, and wherein</u> <u>said sending a first markup language message to the service comprises sending the</u> <u>message via the message gate</u>.

11. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:

a client implemented by a computer;

a service, implemented by a computer, which is communicatively coupled to the client <u>via a network</u>; and

a space, implemented by a computer, which is communicatively coupled to the client <u>via the network</u>, wherein the space ~~has a network-addressable storage location~~ <u>comprises a network-accessible repository which stores a plurality of service advertisements expressed in a markup language</u>, wherein the space stores [[an]] <u>a service</u> advertisement for the service, wherein ~~the advertisement~~ <u>each of the plurality of service advertisements</u> comprises a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a <u>markup language</u> schema <u>for a respective service</u>, wherein the URI specifies a network address at which the <u>respective</u> service may be accessed, and wherein the <u>markup language</u> schema ~~specifies one or more messages usable to invoke one or more functions of the service~~ <u>defines a message interface for accessing the respective service</u>;

wherein the client is operable to:

<u>obtain</u> ~~read~~ the <u>service</u> advertisement <u>for the service</u> from [[a]] <u>the</u> space; and

<u>access the service according to the service advertisement, wherein, to access the service, the client is operable to</u> send a first <u>markup language</u> message to the service at the URI <u>specified in the service advertisement</u>, wherein the first message is specified in the <u>markup language</u> schema.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the service is operable to send a second <u>markup language</u> message to the client in response to the first <u>markup language</u> message, wherein the second <u>markup language</u> message is specified in the <u>markup language</u> schema.

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein one or more functions of the service are invoked in response to the first ~~markup language~~ message.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the ~~data representation~~ markup language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

17. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the URI comprises an Internet address.

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the service is operable to publish the service advertisement in the space.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the client is operable to ~~use~~ access a lookup service to find the service advertisement in the space.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the client is operable to ~~use the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct~~ generate a gate for ~~access to~~ accessing the service, wherein the message gate is generated according to the URI and the markup language schema in the service advertisement, and wherein, to send a first markup language message to the service, the client is operable to send the message via the message gate.

21. (Currently amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium storing program instructions that when executed by a computer cause the computer to implement:

a client ~~reading an~~ obtaining a service advertisement from a space, where the service advertisement is expressed in a markup language, wherein the space comprises ~~a network-addressable storage location~~ a network-accessible repository which stores a plurality of service advertisements expressed in the markup language, wherein ~~the advertisement~~ each of the plurality of service advertisements comprises a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) and a markup language schema for a respective service, wherein the URI specifies a network address at which [[a]] the respective service may be accessed, and wherein the markup language schema ~~specifies one or more messages usable to invoke one or more functions of the service~~ defines a message interface for accessing the respective service; and

the client accessing the service according to the service advertisement, wherein said accessing the service comprises the client sending a first markup language message to the service at the URI specified in the service advertisement, wherein the first message is specified in the specified in the service advertisement schema.

22. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions when executed further cause a computer to implement~~:~~

the service sending a second markup language message to the client in response to the ~~client sending~~ service receiving the first markup language message ~~to the service~~, wherein the second markup language message is specified in the markup language schema.

23. (Currently amended) The non-transitory computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions when executed further cause a computer to

implement[[:]] invoking one or more functions of the service in response to ~~the client sending~~ the first <u>markup language</u> message ~~to the service~~.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 25, wherein the ~~data representation~~ <u>markup</u> language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

27. (Currently amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the URI comprises an Internet address.

28. (Currently amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions when executed further cause a computer to implement[[:]] the service publishing the <u>service</u> advertisement in the space.

29. (Currently amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions when executed further cause the computer to implement[[:]] the client ~~using~~ <u>accessing</u> a lookup service to find the <u>service</u> advertisement in the space.

30. (Currently amended) The <u>non-transitory</u> computer-readable storage medium of claim 21, wherein the program instructions when executed further cause the <u>a</u> computer to implement[[:]] the client ~~using the URI and the schema in the advertisement to construct~~ <u>generating</u> a <u>message</u> gate for ~~access to~~ <u>accessing</u> the service<u>, wherein the message gate is generated according to the URI and the markup language schema in the service advertisement, and wherein said sending a first markup language message to the service comprises sending the message via the message gate.</u>